

**CLYDE SHELTON'S STRUGGLES TO PURSUE JUSTICE  
IN *LAW ABIDING CITIZEN* MOVIE**

**THESIS**

**BY**

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**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**

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IN *LAW ABIDING CITIZEN* MOVIE**

**THESIS**

**Presented to  
Universitas Brawijaya  
in partial fulfilment of the requirements  
for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

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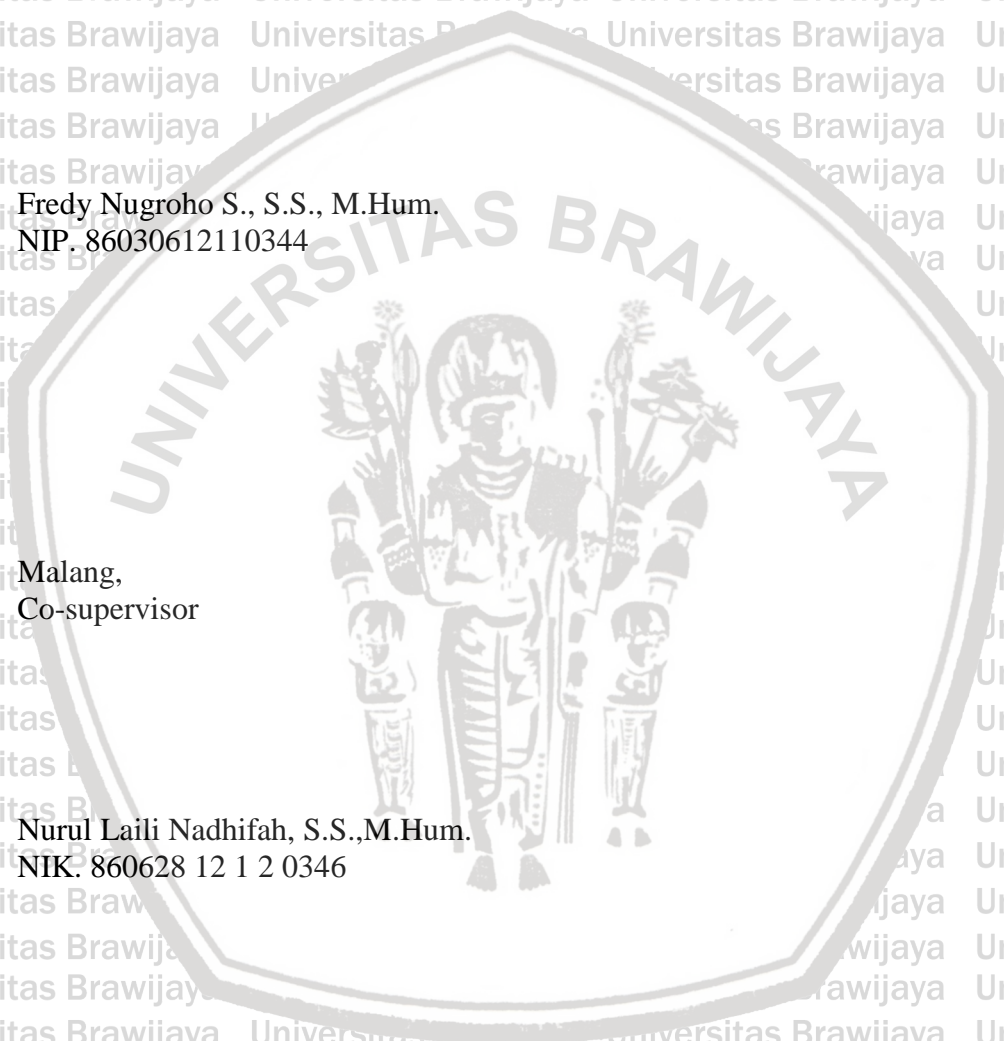
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Hopefully, this study can enrich the research in literature especially about movie studies and becomes an inspiration for the next researchers in conducting related studies.

The Writer

## ABSTRACT

Alfadly, Muchammad Annas. 2014. **Clyde Shelton's Struggles to Pursue Justice in Law Abiding Citizen**. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Cultural Studies, University of Brawijaya. Supervisor: Fredy Nugroho S.; Co-supervisor: Nurul Laili Nadhifah.

Keywords: Movie, Character and Characterization, Pursue Justice, Revenge, Psychological approach.

Character is a part of movie. Characters are the people in narratives, and characterization is the author's presentation and development of characters, is about *Law Abiding Citizen* movie that is analyzed by the writer is telling someone who pursues justice. The movie tells about someone who is disappointed with the law system which does not work properly, so he pursues justice. By the writer uses psychological approach to analyze main character in *Law Abiding Citizen* movie. The approach focuses on the concept of hatred and revenge. This study aims to find out struggle of main character to pursue justice in *Law Abiding Citizen* movie.

The result of the research shows that in *Law Abiding Citizen* movie, someone who is disappointed with the law system, struggles to pursue justice by any means to get justice and to change the law system to be better. For the next researchers who look for new object to be analyzed, they are suggested to use *Law Abiding Citizen* movie that is analyzed by using sociology theory, because this movie can be related to daily life.



## ABSTRAK

Alfadly, Muchammad Annas. 2014, **Perjuangan Clyde Shelton Mengejar Keadilan dalam Film Law Abiding Citizen**. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing 1: Fredy Nugroho S.; Pembimbing 2: Nurul Laili Nadhifah..

Kata Kunci: film, karakter dan karakterisasi, mengejar keadilan, balas dendam, pendekatan psikologi.

Cerita dalam sebuah film biasanya menggambarkan sesuatu yang terjadi dalam kehidupan nyata. Di dalam film *Law Abiding Citizen* yang penulis gunakan sebagai objek literature, film tersebut menceritakan seseorang yang mengejar keadilan hukum. Dimana film tersebut menceritakan seseorang yang kecewa karena system hukum yang tidak berjalan dengan baik, lalu dia melakukan serangkaian balas dendam demi mengejar keadilan tersebut. Penulis menggunakan pendekatan psikologi untuk menganalisa karakter utama dalam film *Law Abiding Citizen* dalam perjuangannya mengejar keadilan. Pendekatan psikologi yang digunakan penulis difokuskan pada teori kebencian dan balas dendam. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui perjuangan karakter utama dalam film *Law Abiding Citizen* dalam mengejar keadilan melawan system hukum yang cacat.

Pada hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa seseorang yang kecewa terhadap system hukum akan terus berjuang mengejar keadilan dengan cara apapun yang diperlukan. Hal ini dilakukan tidak hanya untuk mendapatkan keadilan yang pantas dan bertujuan merubah system hukum yang telah cacat tersebut. Bagi peneliti selanjutnya yang mencari objek baru untuk dianalisa, disarankan menggunakan film *Law Abiding Citizen* yang dianalisa menggunakan teori sosiologi, karena film ini bisa dihubungkan dengan yang terjadi pada dunia nyata.



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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a work of art. It is inline with Robert Frost's words (cited in Juliati, 2010, p.2):

"We can begin saying that literature is a "performance in words". It has in it element of entertaining display, and surely we expect literature to be in some sense entertaining, or put it in slightly different items, to afford pleasure. That literature is an adult game, a short of make-believe, is suggested in some of the words we apply to pieces of literature fiction, story, tale, play."

Literary works become the best media to reveal the truth of human's feeling that cannot be spoken directly. It can be human's imagination or real feelings which are described in many ways. Some written literary works are novels, short story, prose, and poetry where the authors express their feelings through the words. To make it more interesting for the readers, sometimes the authors use figurative language in delivering their ideas, opinions, emotions, and feelings.

Nordquist (2013, p.1) said that "using original figures of speech in our writing is a way to convey meanings in fresh, unexpected ways. Figures can help our readers understand and stay interested in what we have to say".

On the other hand, some literary works can be performed such as play and film. Drama or play is a written story that is intended to be performed. The actors in a play perform the characters in the story. Nowadays, there is a new literary work called film. (Harlon 2009, p.1) defined that

“combines techniques of drama, poetry, visual arts, and music, has been included in literary studies since the twentieth century, with movie scripts being studied as works of art alongside the books and plays many films are based on film is considered as one of new literary works since it contains the element of literature”.

Film is displayed visually where the people do not watch it directly. Film also has various genres and themes based on the script. According to Abrams, et al (2001, p.22) “genre simply means a type or category of film (book or other artwork)”. There are many kinds of genres such as historical film, biographical film, epic film, comedy film, science fiction film, romantic film, fantasy film, horror film, and so on (Gilman, 2013, p.1).

One of the important part of film is theme. According to Layne and Lewis (2009, p.1) “The theme or message is the main point or points that the viewer draws from the way of the characters respond to the obstacles or resolve the conflict in the film”. Theme can be various, depending on the film itself. One of the themes that appears in film is related with psychological subject. It usually deals with people’s personality or characteristic that leads to the conflict between the characters. Many film directors use this kind of theme to catch the viewers’ interest.

One of the films that use psychological subject as its theme is *Law Abiding Citizen*. *Law Abiding Citizen* is released in October 16, 2009. The genre of this film is Psychological Thriller. This film is directed by F. Gary Gray and written by Kurt Wimmer. This film is starred by Gerald Butler as a “Clyde Shelton” and Jammie Foxx as “Nick Rice”. The film takes place in Philadelphia and tells the



story of a man who decides to exact justice on his family's killers, as well as the criminal justice system (Putra, 2010, p.1).

This movie starts from robbery in Clyde Shelton house. His wife and daughter are killed by robbers. Clyde Shelton tries to find justice for his wife and daughter who are killed. Nick Rice, as Shelton's lawyer, finds it difficult to sue the robbers due to the lack of evidence. Nick, who represents Clyde, says he is going to take a deal with the defense. Darby, one of the robber, will provide testimony to convict Ames, another robber, to receive a death penalty in order to receive third degree murder charges with amounts to about 5 years jail time. Disappointed with the law system, Clyde learns everything about law. With his knowledge Clyde tries to fix the law system by any means, including eliminating the law enforcers who try to stop him.

After understanding the story of *Law Abiding Citizen* movie, the writer wants to analyze Clyde Shelton as the main character in this film. Basically, human has two different sides of personality, there are good and bad. The bad personality makes someone dangerous. This is what happens to Clyde Shelton in *Law Abiding Citizen* movie. He was a good person before a disaster came to his family. His personality has changed because his family members were killed by a robber. He then suffers trauma. According to Smith(2008: 1):

"Is the result of extraordinarily stressful event that shatter your sense of security, making you feel helpless and vulnerable in a dangerous world. Traumatic experiences often involve a threat or safety. Experience involving betrayal, verbal abuse, or any major loss".

The traumatic event that happens to his family has haunted him and eventually led him to fight for justice. After watching the movie several times, the writer focuses on Clyde Shelton's struggle for justice. The emphasis of the analysis is on the main character's psychological motives when he is doing his efforts.

### **1.2 Problem of Study**

Related to background of the study, the problem of the study is: how does Clyde Shelton struggle to pursue justice in Law Abiding Citizen?

### **1.3 Objective of Study**

Based on the problem of the study, the objective of the study is to reveal the struggle of Clyde Shelton to pursue justice in Law Abiding Citizen.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Framework**

This chapter discusses about theoretical framework of the study. This chapter will also cover the previous studies on character and characterization.

Furthermore, this study is meant to give clear a different positioning between this study and the previous one.

##### **2.1.1 Character and Characterization**

Character and plot are inseparable. Character is more likely to be emphasized in interpretive literature than in escape literature. Characters are the people in narratives, and characterization is the author's presentation and development of characters. Sometimes the characters are not people. They may be animals, or robots, or creatures from outer space, but the author gives them human abilities and human psychological traits. Thus they are really people in all but outward form. The focus in interpretive literature is on the character not on the action. The character is complex, variable, and ambiguous (English Resource Center, Sogang University).

There are two general ways by the authors to reveal character which are directly and indirectly. Direct presentation of characters occurs when the author simply tells the reader what the character is like. Other characters in the story may also directly tell the reader what a character is like. This method is clear and

economical, but this theory must not be used individually. Meanwhile, indirect presentation occurs when the author shows us what the character is like. This is done by describing the character's physical appearance, showing the character's words and actions, revealing the character's thoughts, and showing how the character is treated by others (English Resource Center, Sogang University). Thus, character and plot cannot be separated as they connect each other. Characters cannot only be in forms of humans but can also be in form of animals, robots, etc.

Characterization is a literary device that is used step by step in literature to highlight and explain the details about a character in a story. It is in the initial stage where the writer introduces the character with noticeable emergence and then following the introduction of the character, the writer often talks about his behavior; then as the story progresses, the thought-process of the character. The next stage involves the character expressing his opinions and ideas and getting into conversations with the rest of the characters. The final part shows how others in the story respond to the character's personality.

The five stages above are the basic stages of characterization. Moreover, characterization is an important aspect in defining a character in a story. With the process of characterization, the reader or viewer can understand the character better.

On stage or in front of the camera, the actors usually do not have much time to characterize. This is why the character faces the risk of coming across as underdeveloped. In dramaturgy, the realists take a different approach by relying



on implied characterization. This is pivotal to the theme of their character-driven narrative. Examples of these playwrights are Anton Chekhov, Henrik Ibsen, and August Strindberg. (Literary Device Editors, 2014, para. 3)

Classic psychological characterization examples such as “The Seagull” usually builds the main character in a more indirect manner. This approach is considered more effective because it slowly discloses the inner turmoil of the character during the three hours of the show and lets the audience connect better. (Literary Device Editors, 2014, para. 4)

The actors who act in such roles usually work on them profoundly to get an in-depth idea of the personality of their respective character. Often, during such shows, plays or dramas, no direct statements about the character’s nature are found. This kind of realism needs the actors to build the character from their own perspective initially. This is why realistic characterization is more of a subtle nature, which cannot directly be recognized. (Literary Device Editors, 2014, para. 5)

In drama, there is a slight difference in its characterization compared with film. Usually, in a film, it uses explicit characterization as it characterizes the character in a direct manner by providing statements about the character. However, in dramas, it usually uses a different approach named implied characterization with a more indirect manner. This is the opposite of explicit characterization with a direct manner. Moreover, in dramas it relies more on the actor’s ability to build the character.

Characterization is an essential component in writing good literature.

Modern fiction, in particular, has taken great advantage of this literary device.

Understanding the role of characterization in storytelling is very important for any

writer. To put it briefly, it helps people make sense of the behavior of any

character in a story by helping us understand their thought processes. A good use

of characterization always leads the readers or audience to relate better to the

events taking place in the story. Dialogues play a very important role in

developing a character because they give us an opportunity to examine the

motivations and actions of the characters more deeply. (Literary Device Editors,

2014, para. 9)

The paragraph above, emphasizes the importance of characterization by

both writer and reader or viewer. When a writer understands the essential

components of characterization, it will help the reader or viewer to understand the

character better. Benefiting through the mutual process, there will be a more

appreciative feeling towards the literary works.

### **2.1.2 The Concept of Hatred in Psychological Perspective**

Hatred is a strong, negative feeling against the object of the hatred. The

hater sees the object of their hatred as bad, immoral, dangerous, or all of this

together (Staub, 2003). A violent act is also an act of hatred, when it is based on

an intense, persistent and negative perception of the other, who we intend and

desire to hurt, destroy, or even make suffer. Hatred is based on the perception of

the other, but also has a strong relationship with ourselves, with our personal



history, and its effects on our personality, feelings, ideas, beliefs, and especially our identity. Certain adversity in our lives can trigger and intensify hatred: jealousy, failure, guilt and so on.

One of the characteristics of hatred is the need to devalue the victim more and more (Staub, 2005, para 2). At the end of the process, the object of the hatred loses all moral or human consideration in the eyes of the hater. When hatred intensifies, a certain fanatical obligation to get rid of the person or group that is the object of the hatred can easily arise (Opotow, 1990, para. 1). Getting rid of that person sometimes means inflicting considerable damage or, taking it to an extreme, physical disappearance or murder a frequent recourse in situations of intense hatred. In the end, it can produce a reversal of the moral code: killing the hated person or group is a right. The history of mankind is full of such examples: deportations of potential enemies by Stalin; ethnic cleansing in the Balkans war; many cases of domestic violence ending in the murder of the partner.

There are two factors at the root of hatred: the devaluation of the victim and the ideology of the hater. Both of these factors mould and expand hatred. They reduce empathy, because the hater moves increasingly away from the object of their hatred. They remove obstacles that could limit our hatred towards others, by transforming our feelings into hatred. They not only change our ideas and feelings, but even the social norms that guide our behavior towards the object of our hatred. The new behavior ends up being accepted and normal; and institutions may even be created to promote and spread hatred.

According to R. Stenberg there are fifth classification about theory of hate from a strictly psychological point of view. First is Hatred is psychologically related to love. The second is Hatred is not the opposite of love, nor is it the absence of love. The third Hatred, like love, has its origins in personal stories that characterize our emotions. The fourth Hatred, like love, can be described as a triangular structure whose origin is these personal stories: the components of the structure are the negation of intimacy, passion and commitment, and the last is Hatred is one of the major mechanisms that triggers acts of great violence (massacres, terrorism, and genocide).

### **2.1.3 The Concept of Justice**

The justice is abstract. Justice is not shaped and cannot be seen, but the implementation can be seen in the perspective of the search of justice that we look every day. Justice also did not have the size and exact dosage of how well a state of "fair". Basically a person or individual or society to seek a justice when the perceived existence of an injustice or in other words justice arises when the perceived injustice. That every human being is basically born in free will (in the broad sense) respectively, due to the free will of the individual is finally hitting the free will of another individual, thus indirectly and do not realize that the free will of each individual is apparently limited by the free will of another individual and vice versa. With a variety of factors and reasons of conflict arise in the community either by each individual are trying to take the liberty of other individuals with a specific purpose and intent. Therefore, the existence of free will



decision of a person by the other person, then the resulting efforts to seek justice.

A person / individual will not seek justice and to know what it is like when there is no interest and the freedom that cheated or harmed. When there are no things that disturb our interest / human well that freedom (in the broad sense or limited freedom) then I think it will not appear on the word "Justice".

Justice it is a situation where there is a balance between the implementation of free will and interests of each individual / society in the implementation of social life and state. The act of revenge is lead by certain experiences in human life that are negatively accepted by them and it results in a perception of danger. The effect of this perception of danger is that human has tendencies to protect themselves from danger and mentally or physically attack another when their comfort is at risk. There is a desire for revenge, to force others to suffer as we have suffered (and from this follows a great deal of the suffering human beings have inflicted on each other). So these behaviors also conform to the idea that we seek profit and seek to avoid pain.

Revenge is a part of justice, because there is no revenge if there is no injustice. As revenge is a natural human urge that human experience, it is rarely discussed. Webster's online dictionary defines revenge as to avenge (as oneself) *usually by retaliating in kind or degree or to inflict injury in return for something*, such as to revenge an insult. The struggle with revenge is centuries old and thus leads to an assumption that revenge as one of the deepest instincts we have. Out of control revenge, attack and counterattack, can be blinding and

destroy the lives of all involved. But our instincts and emotions usually serve a purpose. (Hall, 2013, para. 2)

In conclusion, revenge is a natural desire from human being. Revenge is recognized as an negative act because it has many negative connotations. The act of revenge is initiated by what people call “bad experiences”. Through those “bad experiences” human then react leading them to the act of revenge so that they can protect themselves when they feel threatened or in danger.

Researchers and theorists believe that revenge is a form of establishing justice and that the threat of revenge may serve as a form of protection, a kind of enforcement of social cooperation. Imagine that your neighbor hosts large, overnight parties and his guests parking in front of your house so that you cannot get out of your driveway. If you believe that your neighbor is a rational person who will not retaliate, you may be tempted to key the guests' cars or smear them with eggs. If you think your neighbor would "come after you," then you are less likely to act on your anger. (Hall, 2013, para. 6)

Maybe the purpose of revenge is in preventing certain hostile actions or the threat of revenge insures people do not hurt you in the future. Nevertheless, sometimes people act revengeful when no good can come of their actions, other than to inflict suffering on others. Those actions can go to unfathomable extremes.

From lovers running over a beloved iPhone or destroying what their ex most values, to businessmen damaging the careers of those who have rejected them, to



students opening fire in school hallways, revenge can be an act of anger, hurt and power. (Hall, 2013, para. 7)

Even though, revenge has a connotative meaning sometimes it is seen as an act of justice and protection by people. It is viewed by people that the act revenge is essentially as an act to insure that other people does not discomfort or hurt them in the future.

## 2.2 Mise en scene

*Mise-en-Scene*, literary means “place in the scene” (putting into the scene). When applied to the cinema, *Mise-en-scène* refers to everything that appears before the camera and its arrangement of a scene, including lighting, visual composition, and camera placement. According to Robert Kolker’s book (2005) *Mise-en-scène* can be defined as the articulation of cinematic space, and it is precisely space that it is about. Cutting is about time; the shot is about what occurs in a defined area of space, bordered by the frame of the movie screen and determined by what the camera has been made to record. That space, the *Mise-en-scène*, can be unique closed off by the frame, or open, providing the illusion of more space around it.

Those explanations of *Mise-en-Scene* will be useful for the writer in analyzing the movie. *Mise-en-Scene* consists of lighting, visual composition, and camera movement. However, the writer tends to use *Mise-en-Scene* which

involves camera movement merely to investigate any symbolic meaning of the scene.

In conclusion, *Mise-en-scene* is a literary device that will help the writer in analyzing the movie. It will benefit the writer because it will provide information based on the filmography. It will also help the writer in supporting the ideas from the context of the movie.

Furthermore, there are fifth aspects of *Mise-en-Scene* according to PB Works, that the writer used are:

1. Set design which is an important element of "putting in the scene" is set design—the setting of a scene and the objects (props) visible in a scene. Set design can be used to amplify character emotion or the dominant mood, which has physical, social, psychological, emotional, economic and cultural significance in film. One of the most important decisions made by the production designer and director is deciding whether to shoot on location or on set.
2. The second aspect is lighting. It is the intensity, direction, and quality of lighting can influence an audience's understanding of characters, actions, themes and mood. Light (and shade) can emphasize texture, shape, distance, mood, time of day or night, season, glamour; it affects the way colors are rendered, both in terms of hue and depth, and can focus attention on particular elements of the composition.



3. The third aspect is costume which simply refers to the clothes that characters wear. Using certain colors or designs, costumes in narrative cinema are used to signify characters or to make clear distinctions between characters.

4. Following that is the aspect of makeup and styles which is the aspect that reveals the character traits and signal changes in character.

5. The last aspect is acting which refers to actors'/actresses' acting and how they act.

Through the nine aspects of *Mise-en-scene*, the writer used only four aspects mentioned above because only those aspects can help the writer in analyzing the object of the research. By using *Mise-en-scene* will ease the writer in analyzing the filmography of the movie. By given the standard of elements of *Mise-en-scene* the writer will have a clear structure in analyzing the movie.

### 2.3 Previous Study

Before conducting this research, the researcher found the analysis or criticism about Psychological theory. It is a thesis entitled *The unfulfilled love need in the main character of Anton Chekov's misery* which was conducted by Grace Ivone Maria in 2013. Her thesis used Physiological theory. This research also uses Physiological theory but what makes this thesis and this research different is the object, this thesis used a novel and this research uses a movie. Also this research combines character and characterization with psychological theory of revenge. The second thesis is arranged by Kurniawan Galih (2010) titled

“*Struggle For Life Of Meg Altman In David Fincher’s Panic Room Movie: A Psychoanalytic Approach*”. The similarity between the writer’s thesis and kurniawan is using same approach and the focused.

However, there is a similarity between Maria’s researches with this present research in which both use psychological approach. Nevertheless there is also a difference. Maria’s research used Maslow’s theory of psychological approach in revealing the manifestation of love and belonging needs of human motivation in analyzing the character. On the other hand, this research combines the psychological theory of revenge with character and characterization in analyzing the character named Clyde Shelton in the movie *Law Abiding Citizen*.

#### 2.4 Research Method

Further document or textual analysis is used by the researcher to answer the problem of the study. It is because document or textual analysis emphasize on analyzing or interpreting object according to its content, as asserted in Rahardjo (2010, par. 5).

The data presented in this study is carried out by reading process which requires several steps as follows:

##### 1. Deciding the object of the study.

In this step, the writer watches *Law Abiding Citizen* film several times. This film has psychological thriller genre which tells the audience about the suspense atmosphere. The writer is interested to analyze this film because the story on this film based on the social phenomenon happened in human’s life.



## 2. Collecting and analyzing the data.

After the object of the study is chosen, the writer continues with collecting the data from the film. By doing this action, some evidences are taken from the film and related with the theory. The chosen figure behavior used to deliver the mimic expression from the scene on the film. Using the collected data the process of analyzing is started by exploring the data and matches them with the theories in the second chapter. After watching the film, the writer directly interpret to use the psychoanalysis because, the film has a thrilling atmosphere that related with revenge.

## 3. Drawing Conclusion

After observing, analyzing and interpreting the data based on theories and collect some evidences from the film, the writer finds the conclusion of the study that can gives suggestions for the next researcher.

### CHAPTER III

#### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter reveals the pursue of justice in the film entitled *Law Abiding Citizen*. As the writer explained in the previous chapter, the analysis is based on the theory of the concept of justice and the concept of hatred in psychological perspective. It is supported by *Mise-en-scene* that refers to everything that appears before the camera and its arrangement of a scene, including lighting, visual composition, and camera placement.

This thesis focuses on the main character, Clyde Shelton. Clyde Shelton is an ordinary man and a father. However, because of a certain event in his life, the figure of ordinary man and father changed. The event that changed him was the murder of his wife and children that happened because of a robbery in his house in which the robbers killed his wife and daughter. Since that event, his life changed and thus he pursued for justice. In pursuing justice, Clyde had several obstacles. The major obstacle was the corrupted law system which did not give a fair justice for Clyde. Due to that circumstance, Clyde did several acts to pursue the justice he thought was fair. Based on the actions, the writer classifies it into two classifications which are actions by obeying and disobeying the law in pursuing justice.



### 3.1 Clyde Shelton's Struggle by Obeying the Law

There are some actions that Clyde Shelton does in pursuing justice by obeying the law. It means that Clyde Shelton pursues justice through the legal systems of the law. His motives by pursuing justice through the legal law system are that he thinks that the law system would give the people who kill his family a fair punishment. That action is further discussed in the following explanation. These scenes initiate Clyde Shelton's struggle for justice.



**Figure 3.1 Nick and Clyde discuss about the Case**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

This scene is the first scene that shows Clyde's struggle or effort in pursuing justice towards the murderers of his family. In this scene, Clyde is having a conversation with Nick, a counselor, regarding the law process of the case. Based on the concept of justice, this scene proves that the case will be manipulated by Nick as the counselor. The writer found the data from the conversation below about Nick manipulate the case.

NICK : We had a seatback. The judge ruled that DNA was inadmissible

CLYDE : What?

NICK : Exclusionary rule

CLYDE : Okay, that's okay. I saw them do it. I mean, he killed my little girl nick

NICK : You blacked out, Clyde. Your testimony won't be reliable

CLYDE : Nick both of them are guilty, especially Darby

You know that!

NICK : It's not what you know Clyde; it's what you can prove in court.

(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

From the conversation between Clyde and Nick above, we can see that

Nick wants to manipulate the case. Nick explains to Clyde about the problem of the case. In this scene, Clyde feels disappointed about how the law system works.

According to the concept of hatred in psychological perspective, disappointed with the law system is the cause Clyde pursue a justice. He is unsatisfied with the punishment that the murderers get. That is the motivation for Clyde to change how the law system worked in that area. Clyde thought that the imperfect law system must be changed. According to *Mise-en-Scene* based on set design aspect, this scene happen in the counselor office, that is prove that Clyde pursuing a justice by obeying the law.





**Figure 3.2 Nick and Clyde are discuss about the Case**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

The picture above is in the same scene. This scene proves that Clyde is disappointed with Nick as the counselor and law system. According to the concept of justice, justice itself is abstract. A person / individual will not seek justice and to know what it is like when there is no interest and the freedom that cheated or harmed. According to *Mise-en-scene* acting aspect we can see from his face that Clyde feels disappointed with Nick's decision to make deal with the murderers. This is the part where Clyde feels that justice is not in his side because the counselor makes a deal with the murderers to win this case. The writer find the data about the conversation between Nick and Clyde talking about the deal.

CLYDE : Please don't make a deal with this man, he's a monster  
 NICK : I'm sorry the deal is done, I'm sorry I made the deal  
 CLYDE : What? How could you do that?  
 NICK : This is just how the justice system works  
 (*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

The conversation above proves that justice is not in his side even though Clyde tried to give evidence related to the murder to get the appropriate

punishment. Clyde is disappointed with the deal, but he can do nothing. The pursue of justice from Clyde does not stop here, this conversation with Nick and the deal has motivated Clyde to do something else in other ways. According to the concept of hatred in psychological perspective, the purpose is to get the justice in Clyde Shelton's point of view. When a man or woman disappointed with something or someone, so they have negative feeling against the object of the hatred. The writer finds the reason why Clyde pursues justice by disobeying the law and those actions will be further discussed in the following explanations.

### **3.2 Clyde Shelton's Struggle by Disobeying the Law**

Other than pursuing justice by obeying the law system, there are also several actions Clyde Shelton gaining justice by disobeying the law or through illegal actions. This means that Clyde Shelton pursues justice not through the legal systems of the law. Contrast to the previous classification, this act classification is made because Clyde Shelton feels that the legal law system does not give a fair punishment to the murderers and thus took actions into his own hands because he does not believe in the law system anymore. The writer divided this Clyde action into three classifications. There are killing, bombing, and threatening. The writer also discuss about imperfect law system which is related to Clyde Shelton's struggle by disobeying the law. Those actions will be further discussed in the following explanation.



### 3.2.1 Killing

The first action that the writers discuss is about killing. There are several scenes that prove Clyde Shelton actions to pursue justice by killing some people.

The analysis and the explanation will be discussed below



**Figure 3.2.1 Darby's body mutilated**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

In this scene, Clyde kills Darby by mutilating his body into 25 pieces. This is the first act of gaining justice towards one of the culprits of the murder of his wife and daughter. Here, Clyde struggles to get justice by himself and not through the legal law system. According to the concept of justice itself, Clyde takes it the Darby life, because in the past Darby take it the Clyde family too. So this Clyde act can called revenge. According to the concept of hatred in psychological perspective, Clyde action causes of losing his family especially his wife and daughter. Both of them were dead by a robber. This scene proves that the violent act of Clyde to pursue a justice by himself, because he thinks that the law system cannot give punishment of the robber properly. According to *Mise-en-Scene* from

the set design aspect this scene happen in abandoned building as the place of mutilating. In this scene, Clyde starts to get revenge by himself. He does not pursue justice by obeying the law. He knows that justice can be bought, so he wants to change everything especially how the law system works. He wants to tell us that justice cannot be compromised.



**Figure 3.2.2 Clyde kills his roommate**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

Here, it shows the second act of killing by Clyde. Clyde kills his roommate with the bone of the rib. This is the violent act of Clyde to pursue a justice according to his point of view. He kills his roommate, because he has a purpose. According to concept of justice, what Clyde Shelton does is a robbing life of roommate, but he has a reason to do this. The reason is this is the way to pursue a justice. Through the acting perspective of *Mise-en-scene*, the facial expression of Clyde is shown to have anger in which shows his feeling of wanting revenge. Furthermore, the set design of this scene is dark in line with Clyde's anger and revenge and also referring to the negative aura of the situation.



According to the revenge aspect of psychological approach, the writer finds two effects of disappointment. That is positive and negative. More often it is negative effect that happens than positive effect. Revenge is one of the negative effects of disappointment; we can see the example in the picture above.



**Figure 3.2.3 Clyde Kills Judge Julia Roberts**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

In the scene above, Clyde kills judge Julia Roberts. The judge has relation with Clyde Shelton case. The judge was killed by bomb planted in her cellphone.

According to the concept of hatred in psychological perspective, the judge is one of Clyde's targets to revenge. Clyde thinks that the judge is decision maker and imperfect servant of the law. Clyde kills those related with the case one by one.

This is the way Clyde pursue justice. From this motivation, someone who wants to gain revenge can arrange plans to fulfill what he wants. According to *Mise-en-*

*Scene* set design aspect, this scene happens in the office of Julia Roberts, and the blood explained that the judge was dead.



**Figure 3.2.4 Clyde is sabotages Ames execution**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

In this scene, Clyde sabotage Ames execution, he changes the liquid so Ames was died with pain. Ames is a partner of Darby who was dead mutilating by Clyde. Clyde thinks that the law system did not work properly, he thinks that the justice does not exist anymore. According to the concept of justice, Clyde shows that the punishment must be focused on target. In this scene prove that Clyde can give punishment on the right target than law system itself. According to *Mise-en-Scene* set design aspect this scene happens in jail, one of execution room. From the aspect costume prove that prisoner was dead because he is bleeding, there is some blood in his clothes

This is the act of Clyde to pursue justice by himself. He believes that there is something wrong with the law system. Clyde unstopped from this, because Clyde's purpose is not about revenge to the murderers who killed his family but to fight the flawed law system.



### 3.2.2 Threatening



**Figure 3.2.5 Clyde threatens Nick**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

In this scene, Clyde is threatening Nick. This is one of Clyde's plan in pursuing justice. Here, Clyde asks Nick to release him and erase all of the accusations towards him. This is done by Clyde for testing Nick to see whether he grants his want or not. Behind all these threats, there is a plan to fight the injustices that is still not known by Nick. Through the *Mise-en-scene* aspect of acting, the seriousness of Clyde's facial mimic shown above indicates that he is making serious threats and it also shows deep revenge. For the set design, this scene is still in a prison room mentioned in the previous explanation. According to the concept of hatred, this scene proves that killing the hated person or group is a right (Opotow, 1990). The writer finds the data about Clyde threatening Nick in the conversation below.

CLYDE : I still have faith in you, so I am gonna give you one last chance. Here is the deal, release me and drop all charges by 6.00AM.

NICK : Or what?

CLYDE : Or I kill everyone.

(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

The conversation above prove that Clyde Shelton pursue a justice with treating before he do something about violent act to revenge. Clyde always tries to make a deal with Nick before his action, like Nick make a deal with the murderer in the past. In this scene, based on the *Mise-en-scene*, Clyde is seen angry with the law system based on the facial expression in the figure above and in the costume perspective Clyde is wearing a prisoner's uniform indicating he is being attained in prison.



**Figure 3.2.6 Clyde threatens Nick**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

In the scene shown above, Clyde is threatening Nick again, because the deal before was failed. This scene proves that Clyde's action is not stopped from here.

He has some action to pursue a justice until he can reach what he wants. Clyde



threatens Nick again but this time Clyde is not offering any offers towards Nick.

Based on the concept of justice as the writer theory this is an act of revenge towards the law system and as an act of fighting the law system. The writer finds the data about Clyde threatening.

CLYDE : I am gonna pull the whole thing down. I am gonna bring the whole fucking diseased corrupt temple down on your head. It is gonna be biblical

(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

### 3.2.3 Bombing



### 3.2.7 Clyde bombing the cars

(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

This scene proves Clyde's intention to fight the injustices in the law system and also proves that his threats are serious. According to *Mise-en-scene* set

design aspect this scene happens outside of the jail where there are burned car in the background. According to the concept of hatred in psychological perspective,

Hatred is one of the major mechanisms that trigger acts of great violence (massacres, terrorism, and genocide), so this scene is one of it. Clyde is not only

pursuing justice, he try to fix the law system. According to revenge as the writer reference, the struggle with revenge is centuries old and thus leads to an assumption that revenge as one of the deepest instincts we have.



### 3.2.8 The second violent act about bombing (*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

This scene happen in grave yard. Clyde bombing one of the counselor cars. Jonas, a supervisor was killed by the bomb. Clyde kills the servant of law one by one, he does not kill without purpose. Clyde has the reason, he wants to Nick understand about how the feel people around him dead. According to the concept of hatred, the action of Clyde Shelton included revenge. According to *Mise-en-Scene* set design aspect this scene happen in grave yard as the background and there are three cars and one of them are blow up proves that Clyde's effort in gaining justice was not over yet. Relating it with the concept of justice, what is done by Clyde is not merely revenge towards the robbers and his family's killer but also revenge towards the law system in which he felt is unfair and not working accordingly to the law.





**Figure 3.2.9 The end of Clyde Shelton life**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

In this scene, it is the end of Clyde Shelton's life. As Clyde thinks that the law system has changed which is explained by the Nick's rejection towards his offer he ends his life. According *Mise-en-scene* aspect of set design, this happens inside of jail with the existence of a bed commonly seen inside jail. The fire around him explains that he dies by trapped. According to the facial expression aspect, he feels satisfaction thinking that his struggle to fight justice is enough.

The writer divided into three classifications about the struggle of Clyde Shelton pursues justice. The explanation above represent about Clyde Shelton action. That is the way Clyde as the main character pursues a justice by disobeying the law. The background of Clyde pursue a justice is when he think that the law system can give the punishment to the murderer of his family.

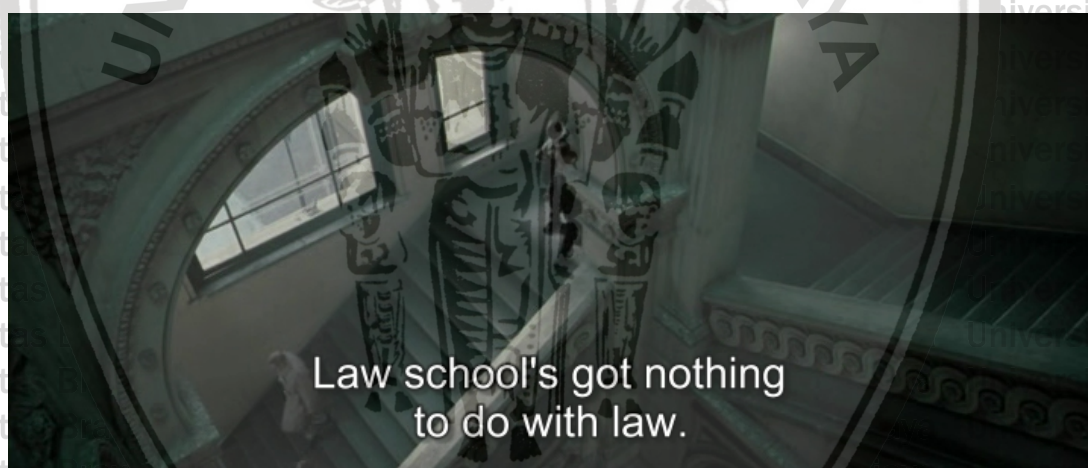
According to the concept of justice, there are several causes the violent act of Clyde Shelton. First is when his wife and his daughter were killed by murderer.

The second is, law system did not give the punishment properly to the murderer.

The third is he thinks that the law system must be changed. According to revenge

as the reference, revenge is a natural desire from human being. Revenge is recognized as a negative act because it has many negative connotations. The act of revenge is initiated by what people call “bad experiences”. The action of Clyde to fix it the law system supported with several confessions of the law servant in this film, that the law system is imperfect system.

There is several weakness of law system that the writer found it. That is related with background of study of the writer, and can supported the analysis of Clyde Shelton pursue justice. The weakness itself were mentioned by the law servant in this film. Those weaknesses will be further discussed in the following explanation.



**Figure 3.2.10 Conversation between Nick and Jonas**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

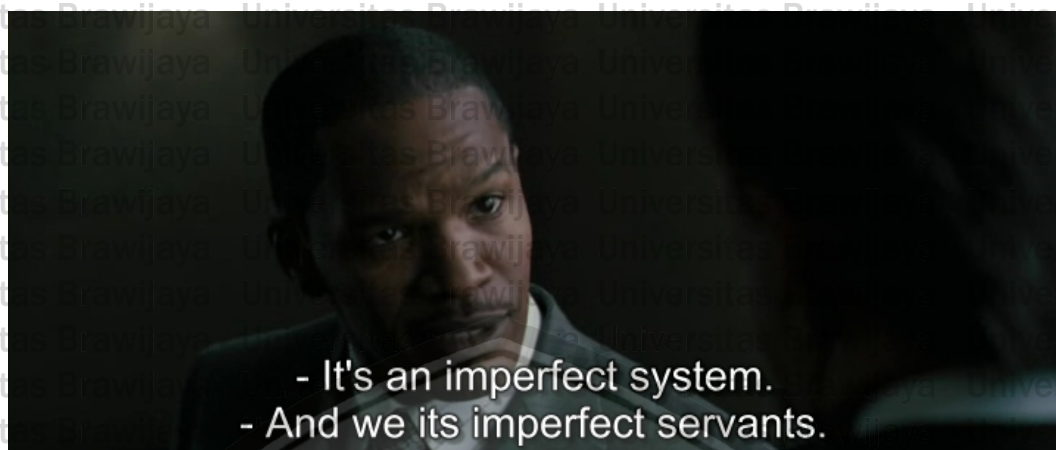
In this scene, Nick and Jonas have a conversation. From the picture above, the writer find the weakness the law system in this film based on Nick said. From text explained that is one of the weaknesses of law system.





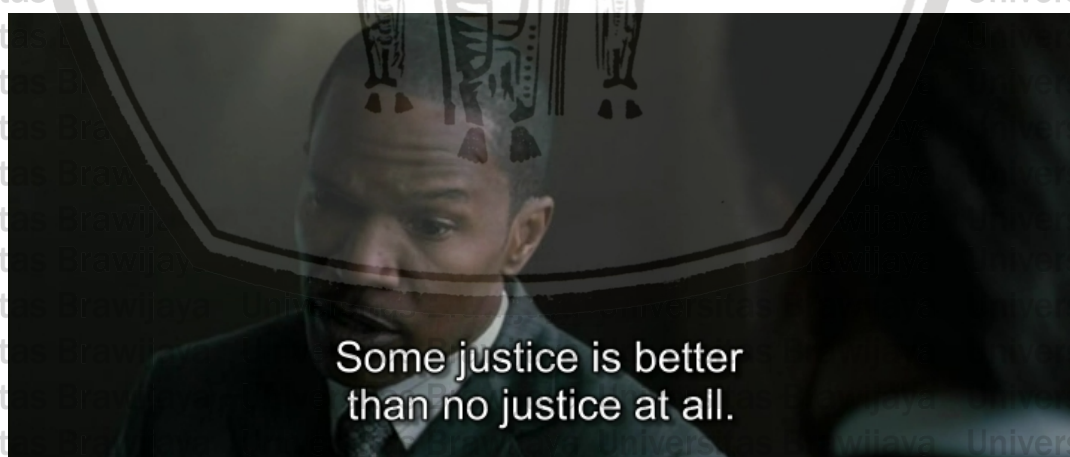
**Figure 3.2.11 Conversation between Nick and Jonas**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

The picture above is conversation between Nick and Jonas. From the scene the writer finds the weakness especially from Nick confession. Nick's confession proves that to solve some cases do not need consideration of the justice, only need the jury like the decision to win the case. "Justice it is a situation where there is a balance between the implementation of free will and interests of each individual / society in the implementation of social life and state." According to the concept of justice this scene proves that the Nick confession opposite with the concept.



**Figure 3.2.12 Nick confession**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

In this scene, Nick is clearly said the weakness of law system. This scene related with Clyde action to pursue justice. Clyde is not only to pursue justice, but this is one of the reason Clyde tries to fix the law system. Clyde thinks that there is something weird with law system work. “Basically a person or individual or society to seek a justice when the perceived existence of an injustice or in other words justice arises when the perceived injustice” this is the concept of justice.



**Figure 3.2.13 Nick confession**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

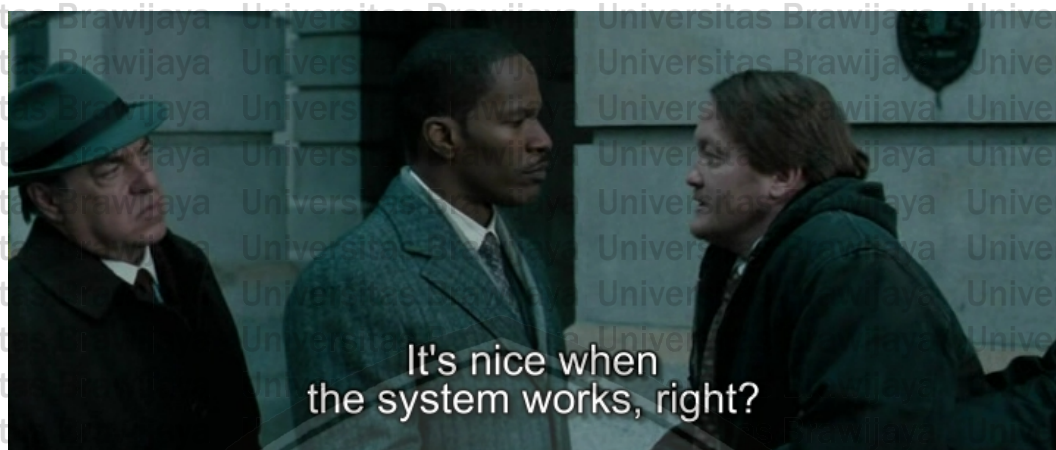


This scene is the reason why Clyde Shelton pursue justice and he wants to revenge to law system. The system is not work properly. Prove that from Nick confession in this scene.



**Figure 3.2.13 Nick and the murder have a deal**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

This scene is one of evidence that the law system in this film is bad. The pictures above prove that law can be bought. Law considering by money not justice itself. Justice can manipulate depend on the money or carrier as the decision maker. This thing that makes Clyde Shelton disappointed with the system.



**Figure 3.2.15 Nick and the murder have a deal**  
(*Law Abiding Citizen*, 2009)

“The act of revenge is lead by certain experiences in human life that are negatively accepted by them and it results in a perception of danger.” This is the concept of revenge. According to Clyde case, this scene is related that’s why Clyde Shelton wants to fight with the law. Clyde Shelton said that “to fight with broken thing” in one of the scene in this film. Broken thing it means that the law system itself. That is one of Clyde’s plans in pursuing justice.

The writer also found the evidence from the text to prove that this law system is bad.

**NICK** : When I was young, I really wanted to change the system. Then you realize that the system you are trying to change, it changed you.

From the text above, Nick as counselor knows the system is not good, but he cannot do anything to change the system. Clyde Shelton knows that and he wants to change it.





## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter concludes all the research materials that are contained in findings and discussion. In addition to the conclusion, this chapter also provides some further suggestions for the next researcher who will analyze this movie.

#### 4.1 Conclusion

After the writer had analyzed *Law Abiding Citizen* movie by using some theories such as characterization theory, the concept of justice theory, and movie studies, it can be figured out that Clyde Shelton's problem struggles to pursue justice. *Law Abiding Citizen* is the movie released in October 16, 2009. The genre of this movie is psychological thriller, directed by F. Gary Gray. The problem of this movie started when the law system is not fair to give punishment to the murderer. Clyde Shelton as the victim disappointed with the judge decision, so he want to change how the law system work. Clyde Shelton struggles to pursue justice by obeying the law and disobeying the law. He unsatisfied with judge's decision that Darby is not punished fairly. Justice is abstract, Justice is not shaped and cannot be seen, but the implementation can be seen in the perspective of the search of justice that we look every day. Justice also did not have the size and exact dosage of how well a state of "fair". Basically a person or individual or society to seek a justice when the perceived existence of an injustice or in other words justice arises when the perceived injustice. Though Clyde Shelton, the



writer finds his motives of revenge that he wants to change the law system by disobeying the law.

Those causes and effects which are shown *Law Abiding Citizen* relate to many aspects. The struggle of Clyde Shelton against the system is triggered by the death of his family. The system did not work properly for Clyde Shelton and it makes Clyde Shelton disobeying the law by killing people who related with his case.

The phenomenon that Clyde Shelton disobeying the law caused by system that did not work properly brought this movie into one of the main purpose of literature which is to show how the humanity, moral, and value is questionable through different view that usually done. The phenomenon is viewed by the eye of the victims through Clyde Shelton.

This problem becomes the main cause of Clyde Shelton case that happens in this movie. Clyde Shelton is not satisfied with judge's decisions that he get injustice from them. However, Clyde Shelton thinks that by disobeying the law he can change the system. His disobey is manifested by his action that he kills all people who related with his case. His violent act can be defined as revenge action.

Clyde Shelton's revenge as the main cause of his struggle against the system is symbolized through his responses in *Law Abiding Citizen* movie. In this movie, Clyde Shelton wants to change the system by killing the people who related with his case. He planned, threaten, and murdered his victim in order to change the system. By looking at the evidence that is stated above, it is seen that

the pursuing justice in *Law Abiding Citizen* movie shows the motives of Clyde Shelton inside the movie.

#### 4.2 Suggestion

The existence of justice and the concept of hatred in the character of Clyde Shelton is interesting to discuss because it reflects about how human characteristic is. After finishing the research by using some theories, the writer thinks that it is recommended for the further research to use other theory such as sociology or psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud. By using the sociology theory and Psychoanalysis, the next researcher can reveal *Law Abiding Citizen* as reflection of reality. The problem in *Law Abiding Citizen* movie is common problem in every country, this theory should be useful for the readers. Hopefully, the next researchers can reveal and reflected in real life about injustice or discrimination about justice, the next researcher can find different conclusion by using any other theory. This perspective can be used to identify the injustice about law system in real life.



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## Appendix 5: Berita Acara Bimbingan Skripsi



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6. Tanggal Mengajukan : -
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